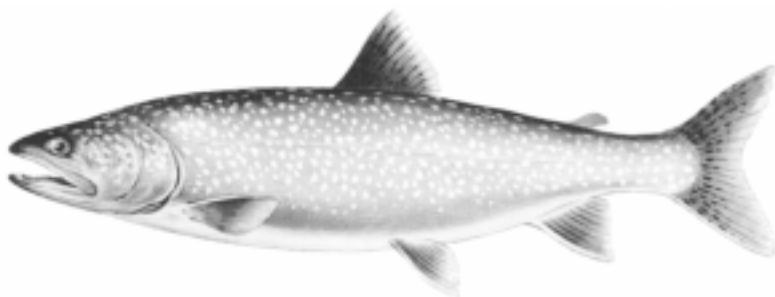


## LAKE TROUT OR MACKINAW

*Salvelinus namaycush*



### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The background color of the body is usually dark gray, but varies from pale to almost black.

The entire body except for the belly is covered with large pale spots.

The dorsal and caudal fins are marked with dark wavy lines and spots.

The caudal fin is deeply forked. The head is pointed and the body is relatively slender. The lake trout illustrated above is an exceptionally plump fish. Very often they are more slender.

### DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

Self-sustaining populations of lake trout are present in Lake Tahoe, Fallen Leaf Lake, Stony Ridge Lake, and Donner Lake, all of which are in the Truckee River drainage. Lake trout have recently been introduced into other waters.

### INTERESTING FACTS

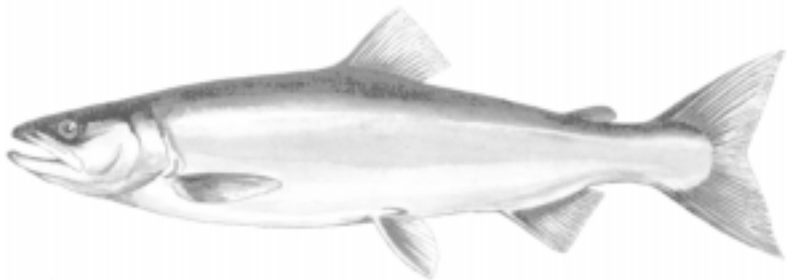
This trout tends to live in the deeper pans of lakes and is usually caught by trolling with wire line, to which large spinners and frequently minnows are attached. It commonly feeds upon other fish and grows to large sizes; 15 pounds is not rare. This is the only trout which does not construct some sort of nest and cover its eggs with gravel. Its eggs are dropped into the loose rock or ledges and shelves on the lake bottom.

The lake trout or mackinaw, as it is often called in California, was brought to this State from Michigan in 1894. It has not been widely distributed because of its tendency to feed upon other trout. It is sometimes blamed for the disappearance of the Lahontan cutthroat from Lake Tahoe.

This trout was originally described in 1792 by Johann Walbaum from fish taken in Hudson Bay and called *namaycush*, an Indian name.

## KOKANEE SALMON

*Oncorhynchus nerka*



### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The back is a dark blue and the sides are silvery. As the spawning season approaches, both male and female kokanee turn a deep red, and the lower jaw of the male develops a characteristic hook common to Pacific salmon. Rays in anal fin 13 to 17 (usually 14 or 15), opposed to 9 to 12 (rarely 13) in trout.

### DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

Kokanee have been planted in 35 lakes in California since their initial introduction in 1941 but have established self-perpetuating populations only in 10. Donner Lake, for example, has a good population of kokanee, limited now by spawning area.

### INTERESTING FACTS

Kokanee are not trout but belong to the same family as the trout. Since they look like trout and are found in the same areas, we have included them here so that anglers may be able to identify them.

Kokanee are primarily plankton feeders, found in the open water areas of a lake. They like the same cool waters preferred by trout. Kokanee compete with small trout for food but provide forage for large lake trout.

Mature kokanee ascend streams and gather over gravel bars in lakes in the fall to spawn. Kokanee are the landlocked form of sockeye salmon and, like their ocean-going brothers, die after spawning.

Kokanee can be caught with flies, bait, or lures. When trolling, a rubber band between line and leader prevents the hook from tearing out of their soft mouths.

*Oncorhynchus nerka* was originally described by Walbaum in 1792 from sockeye taken in Kamchatka. The scientific name is Greek for "hooked nose of flowing waters"

# MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH

*Prosopium williamsoni*



## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The sides are silvery, while the back and fins are light brown. The small mouth superficially resembles that of a sucker. Whitefish can be immediately distinguished from suckers by the presence of an adipose fin, which is one indication of their ties with the trout and salmon.

## DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

The mountain whitefish is found throughout the streams and lakes of the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, but is most common in the Truckee and Carson rivers.

## INTERESTING FACTS

Whitefish are often taken by trout anglers, since they are found in the same waters as trout and eat much the same food. Many anglers have discarded them as suckers or as inedible fish. Neither of these assumptions is correct. Whitefish are as good to eat as trout and are not at all hard to distinguish from suckers if one remembers to look for the adipose fin. Ironically, a true sucker of the Truckee River develops a red stripe on its sides and is often taken home as a rainbow trout by anglers who would throw away whitefish.

Whitefish may grow to a weight of six pounds, although fish over two pounds are rare.

Whitefish spawn in the fall in the gravel of stream riffles. The eggs develop in the stream in winter and take about five months to hatch at 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Whitefish may be taken by anglers only during the trout season. Generally, the same regulations apply. We hope that their inclusion here with the trout will identify them to more anglers and prevent waste of this fine game fish.